

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO USDEL SECRETARY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4243

S E C R E T ATHENS 0615

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GR

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ATHENS

REF: TOSEC 10079

1. IN ADDITION TO THE MATTERS RAISED IN THE BRIEFING MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT (REFTEL), THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT SOMETIME DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ATHENS THE GOG MAY RAISE THE SUBJECT OF SECURITY "GUARANTEES" ON THE AEGEAN, AS IT DID DURING CLARK CLIFFORD'S VISIT HERE LAST FEBRUARY.

2. THE "GUARANTEES" THE GOG HAS IN MIND ARE CONTAINED IN A PUBLIC EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS RELEASED ON APRIL 15, 1976. THE OPERATIVE PORTION OF THAT EXCHANGE WAS CONTAINED IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER AND READS AS FOLLOWS:

"YOU HAVE ASKED ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND PARTICULARLY IN THE AEGEAN AREA. IN THIS REGARD I SHOULD LIKE TO REITERATE OUR CONVICTION THAT THESE DISPUTES MUST BE SETTLED THROUGH PEACEFUL PROCEDURES AND THAT EACH SIDE SHOULD AVOID PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED OUR SECRET

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BELIEF THAT NEITHER SIDE SHOULD SEEK A MILITARY SOLUTION TO THESE DISPUTES. THIS REMAINS UNITES STATES POLICY. THEREFORE THE UNITED STATES WOULD ACTIVELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSE EITHER SIDE'S SEEKING A MILITARY SOLUTION AND WILL MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO PREVENT SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION."

3. LAST YEAR THE GOG RAISED THIS SUBJECT IN CONVERSATIONS

WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. DURING THE FEBRUARY 1977 CLIFFORD VISIT, THEN FOREIGN MINISTER KISSINGER ASKED WHETHER THE USG WOULD "RENEW" AND "STRENGTHEN" THE "SECURITY GUARANTEES" CONTAINED IN THE KISSINGER LETTER. MR. CLIFFORD DID NOT REPLY. SPEAKING TO COUNSELOR NIMETZ IN APRIL 1977, THE GREEK AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON INCLUDED U.S. "SILENCE" ABOUT THE GREEK REQUEST FOR STRENGTHENED SECURITY GUARANTEES IN A CATALOGUE OF OTHER GREEK COMPLAINTS.

4. THE GOG'S FAILURE TO RAISE THIS MATTER SUBSEQUENTLY MAY REFLECT ITS PERCEPTION THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY ASK AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER. NEVERTHELESS, THE GREEKS HAVE A CHRONIC SENSE OF INSECURITY AND THE SECRETARY'S PRESENCE IN ATHENS MAY BE USED BY THEM TO RAISE AGAIN THE QUESTION OF A REAFFIRMATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE "GUARANTEES".

MILLS

SECRET

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